



**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FR:** Evans/McDonough  
**RE:** San Francisco Poll Results – DRAFT -  
**DT:** 8/17/2005

**1. Most San Francisco voters think the current approach to adult marijuana use is a failure and that current penalties are too strict.**

- 80% agree that “the federal government’s war on drugs has failed.”
- 84% agree that “by criminalizing marijuana we are clogging our courts and wasting our tax dollars and police resources on non-violent adult marijuana offenders instead of focusing on solving murders and violent crime.”
- 80% disagree that “people convicted of marijuana offenses should go to prison.”
- 71% agree that “the San Francisco police should make adult marijuana offenses its lowest police priority.”
- 63% agree that “current penalties for the adult use of marijuana are too strict.”

**2. There is strong majority support in San Francisco for legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana and most voters believe adult marijuana users should be treated the same under the law as alcohol users.**

- By a 63% to 31% margin, voters support the idea of having the City, “legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana for adult use.”
- 70% agree that “We should legalize marijuana for general adult use and sell it through licensed businesses to take business away from street dealers, and break their hold on our neighborhoods.”
- 70% agree that “marijuana users should be treated the same, under the law, as alcohol users.”

**3. Almost all voters support medical marijuana and a majority do not believe that marijuana dispensaries are creating problems.**

- 91% support “medical marijuana for people whose doctor recommends it.”
- 75% agree that “patients should be allowed to smoke marijuana onsite at the medical marijuana dispensaries if the facility has a proper ventilation system.”
- 60% disagree that “It should be more difficult to get medical marijuana legally in San Francisco.”
- By a 22-point margin (52% to 30%), residents disagree that “the current medical marijuana dispensaries are out of control, they are a major neighborhood nuisance and crime magnet.”

**4. There is strong support for local control over marijuana policy and over dispensaries.**

- 75% agree that “San Francisco should deal with its marijuana policies locally, not hand them over to the Bush Administration’s Drug Enforcement Agency.”
- 62% agree that local neighborhood residents should be able to control the location of dispensaries in their neighborhood districts.

**Methodology:** This memo is based on the findings from a telephone survey of 400 Registered Voters in the City of San Francisco, conducted August 1-3, 2005. The overall margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 4.9$  points.